

## Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2779

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W: PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

REF: MONTERREY 0782, MEXICO 10963

1. WHEN CONOFFS VISITED PENITENTIARIES IN MONTERREY, TORREON, DURANGO, AND SALTILLO ON SEPTEMBER 7 AND 8, THEY FOUND NO AMCIT PRISONERS PARTICIPATING IN HUNGER STRIKE.

2. IN INTERVIEWS WITH NINE OF THE 23 AMCIT PRISONERS AT MONTERREY PENITENTIARY, CONOFF WAS TOLD THAT ABOUT TEN OF THE PRISONERS HAD SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED JOINING HUNGER STRIKE, BUT HAD FINALLY DECIDED NOT TO DO SO BECAUSE THEY EITHER FEARED THAT PARTICIPATION MIGHT LESSEN THEIR CHANCES FOR EARLY RELEASE UNDER THE WORK/GOOD BEHAVIOR PROGRAM OR THEY BELIEVED HUNGER STRIKE WOULD HAVE NO POSITIVE RESULTS. DECISION OF THESE TEN NOT TO PARTICIPATE ALSO INFLUENCED BY REFUSAL OF MAJORITY OF AMCIT PRISONERS TO EVEN CONSIDER PARTICIPATION.

3. CONOFF WHO VISITED TORREON AND DURANGO PENITENTIARIES REPORTED PRISONERS THERE SHOWED NO INTEREST AT ALL IN PARTICIPATING IN HUNGER STRIKE. THEY HAD RECEIVED NO COMMUNICATION ABOUT THE STRIKE FROM PRISONERS IN MEXICO CITY AND WERE AWARE OF IT ONLY THROUGH NEWSPAPERS. THEY FELT STRIKE WOULD NOT SPEED UP ACTION ON PRISONER EXCHANGE PROPOSAL AND SAW NO ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED BY PARTICIPATING IN IT.

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4. PRISONERS AT SALTILLO PENITENTIARY, PERHAPS THE BEST ADJUSTED GROUP OF AMCIT PRISONERS IN THIS CONSULAR DISTRICT, THOUGH AWARE FROM NEWSPAPERS OF HUNGER STRIKE INITIATED BY AMCIT PRISONERS IN MEXICO CITY, UNANIMOUSLY REJECTED PARTICIPATION.

5. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS SEPTEMBER 8 CARRIED ARTICLES ON HUNGER STRIKE AND U.S. PRISONERS' ATTITUDES. ARTICLE IN EL NORTE, CAPTIONED "NORTHAMERICAN PRISONERS HERE REJECT STRIKE" CITED CAPITAN DOMENE, PRISON DIRECTOR, AS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH A PAPER HAD BEEN CIRCULATING IN THE PRISON INVITING THE AMERICAN PRISONERS TO JOIN THE HUNGER STRIKE, NONE HAD DONE SO. DOMENE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE PRISONERS HAVING NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR TREATMENT AND TO THEIR BELIEF THAT THEIR CASES WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON THROUGH LEGAL MEANS. ARTICLE STATED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE AMCIT PRISONERS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED "DISINTEREST AND APATHY TOWARD THE MOVEMENT." THE ARTICLE IN TRIBUNA, CAPTIONED "OUR GOVERNMENT IGNORES US; REJECT THE HUNGER STRIKE," REPORTED THE COMPLAINTS OF THREE AMCIT PRISONERS ABOUT THE FAILURE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SHOW INTEREST IN THEIR SITUATION. ONE PRISONER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THEY IGNORE US; THEY NEVER ANSWER THE PETITIONS WE HAVE SENT THEM." SPECIFICALLY THEY COMPLAINED THAT SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR HOME STATES ALMOST NEVER REPLIED TO THEIR APPEALS AND THAT THEY ONLY INFORMATION THEY HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT THE PRISONER EXCHANGE PROPOSAL AND PAROLE FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR WAS FROM READING THE NEWSPAPERS. ARTICLE DID NOTE THAT AN AMERICAN CONSUL VISITS THE PRISONS PERIODICALLY AND THAT ONE WAS THERE YESTERDAY.  
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